

IMPACT

Impact of Crime on Victims Classes

The Missouri Department of Corrections offers Impact of Crime on Victims classes at each correctional center.

Classes teach the human consequences of crime: how crime affects victims, victims' families, and communities. Through specific modules that address property crimes, sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, elder abuse, drunk driving, drug-related crimes, gang violence, and homicide, offenders develop respect for the rights of others and take responsibility for their actions.

A key element of the classes is the direct involvement of victims and victim services providers, telling their personal stories of being victimized or of helping victims reconstruct their lives after a traumatic crime. Without victims who are willing to share their stories, the impact of the classes is diminished.

If you are a victim or family member of a victim who might be interested in serving on a panel to tell your story to a group of offenders, please contact Jeananne Markway or Kay Crockett.

Victims have told us that participating has a profound impact on them too.

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Impact of Crime on Victims Classes are part of the Missouri Department of Corrections' commitment to Restorative Justice philosophy.

The definition of Restorative Justice is complex and multi-faceted. For the Department, consistent with our mission, it means that offenders are presented with opportunities to:

- understand their criminal behavior, and how to modify it
- understand what their criminal conduct did to their victims and to the communities in which they live and/or committed their crimes
- publicly take responsibility for their crimes and the impact of them
- make amends in some meaningful way

Over 95% of incarcerated offenders will one day be released. One aspect of the Department's mission is achieved when offenders are released prepared to live law-abiding, responsible and productive lives.

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Missouri Department of Corrections